Editor's Note

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Editors’ Note

Natalie Soper created the cover for this second issue of *AWE, A Woman’s Experience*, to illustrate the theme “Ornaments or Instruments.” Alexandra Crafton’s lush black and white photography echoes this theme as she draws in ideas from Virginia Woolf. Brian Hoffman’s bright photos of women in Ghana, West Africa underscore women as instrumental to the thriving of their communities.

Shannon and I were delighted to be able to include in this issue Pamela S. Nadell’s article, “Reflections on *Making Women’s Histories Beyond National Perspectives*.” Nadell, professor and Patrick Clendenen Chair of Women’s and Gender History, and Chair of the History Department and American University, gave a keynote address at the 2013 BYU Women’s Studies Conference which reviewed her experiences collecting and publishing the history of Jewish women.

Additional exploration of women’s history through reviewing 19th century personal letters is found in Rachel Mahrt Degr’s “Correspondence,” and Mormon women’s history is represented by Jennifer Duqué’s treatment of Martha Hughes Cannon. Perspectives on United States maternity leave policies by Kimmie Merkley, and the portrayal of women in comics by Kyra Nelson contribute urgent social warnings while Jenna Miller’s review of A.S. Byatt’s *Possession* offers readers an opportunity to re-examine assumptions about femininity.

Poetry by Katie Wade-Neser and personal essays by Danielle Leavitt and Jessie Hawkes Wilkey add strong voices of women’s lived experience.

We want to thank everyone who invested in this journal, including the Women’s Studies Program at BYU, the *AWE* editorial staff and the authors, poets, artists and photographers who contributed their work to this issue. And we thank all of you, our readers! As a result of the investments of all aforementioned people, we are pleased to offer you this rich and diverse collection of beautiful works that demonstrate women speaking their truths. We hope you enjoy this journal as much as we do.

Lisa Tensmeyer Hansen
Shannon Soper